



Mixing industrial pieces, like the tabletop and cabinets seen here, along with vintage items, like table base and chairs, is a big design trend this year. Blending finishes, tattered with shiny, or soft textures with rough surfaces is also popular.

Photo courtesy of Remnants of the Past/Jenny Malott

WHAT'S HOT NOW

The top design trends this year are all about the mix.

BY REBECCA ITTNER

MIX IT UP—that's the word on the street from designers in the know. Instead of devising interiors based on a single theme or era, such as farmhouse or primitives or Victorian antiques, design-savvy homeowners are blending furniture and accessories to create spaces that reflect their personal style.

Rick Marburger has a front row seat to developing trends in flea market décor, and perhaps some of the factors driving them, at his Marburger Farm Antiques Show. "A younger set is coming into the show. As some of the dealers get older and can't withstand the rigors of our show—outside, hot, lots of physical excursion—we see a younger group coming in, both dealers and buyers," Rick says.

“The juxtaposition of modern mixed with a signature vintage piece.”

—Judy Watkins, Remnants of the Past



Photo courtesy of The Farm Chicks/Cristina G. Photography



Reconfiguring industrial or other metal pieces into unusual light fixtures is very hip and an easy way to update your rooms. Repurposed studio lighting for use in the home, like the one on the tripod seen here, adds a big design punch without taking up a lot of space.

Photo courtesy of Marburger Farm Antique Show

“With this I’m seeing newer merchandise that’s more cutting edge. It’s still antique driven, but I’m seeing booths with that and maybe with something industrial or something that is very cool and hip.”

These changes are not only bringing new merchandise to flea market venues, they are also influencing interior design trends. Where many homeowners may have bought décor items in one particular style, now it’s about mixing eras and styles. Serena Thompson, of The Farm Chicks Antiques Show, is noticing interesting developments on the design front. “I am seeing more industrial-looking decorating. This includes a lot more metals—big chunky metal pieces that are being used in the home.” These can include an oversized metal table being used in place of glass-topped or wood table in the dining room. Or old mechanic’s drawers used as storage cabinets and metal lockers used in place of wooden armoires. “There is a place here in Spokane [Washington], called Deja Nue” Serena says. “Erica Parish and Lana Neuman create amazing pieces by repurposing or reusing these industrial elements in new ways. They are even being sought out by Calvin Klein and other top designers for their ideas and expertise.” Rick Marburger sees homeowners “using outdoor furniture in the home, like metal garden chairs and glass-topped metal tables in the dining room.”

Mid-century modern and art deco pieces are also finding their way on to the design front. At her Remnants of the Past Vintage Show Judy Watkins found that “a lot of the primitives looked great mixed with the more modern things. I noticed a lot of mid-century modern, but they are repur-



Galvanized buckets and other metal pieces are all rage; blend them with painted furniture for a modern design approach. Repurpose items to get the most use out of them. For instance, fill old suitcases with extra pillows or linens, then stack the cases next to a sofa or chair for a side table with a twist.

“I am seeing more industrial-looking decorating. This includes a lot more metals—big chunky metal pieces that are being used in the home.”

—Serena Thompson, The Farm Chicks

posed items.” Framing old linens or vintage ephemera in more modern frames is one idea. Or try placing an amazing art deco lamp on a vintage table with chipped paint. “The juxtaposition of modern mixed with a signature vintage piece is a popular look,” Judy says.

Creating the home of your dreams is about finding the mix that works for you.

SEE SHOPPING GUIDE, PAGE 126.



Photos courtesy of The Farm Chicks/Christina G. Photography